

XLVIII. *A Letter of Mr. William Sherington to Benjamin Franklin, Esq; of Philadelphia, concerning the Transit of Mercury over the Sun, on the 6 of May 1753, as observed in the Island of Antigua: Communicated by Mr. Peter Collinson, F. R. S.*

S I R,

Antigua, June 20, 1753.

Read Nov. 15,
1753.

MR. Benjamin Mecom having received half a dozen circulatory letters from you relating to Mercury's transit over the sun the 6 of last May, he put them into my hands. One would have sufficed for our island, as we are not overburthen'd with men, who have a taste that way. Hereunder I send you the result of my observation * thereof.

Sunday, May 6, at $6^h 7' 51''$, I observed the western limb of Mercury to touch the western limb of the sun; and, at $6^h 10' 37''$, he touch'd the same with his eastern limb, and totally disappear'd. Lat. of the place $17^{\circ} 0' N$. Lon. by estimation $61^{\circ} 45' W$. from London.

This was taken by a Graham's watch, and corrected by two altitudes taken by a most exquisite quadrant; viz.

At

* Dr. Charles Rose, who was in Antigua at this time, says, that these observations were taken by Capt. Richard Tyrrel, of the said island,

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At 6^h 58' 7", I observed the distance of the sun's upper limb from the zenith = 72° 21' 30". And, at 9^h 31' 5", I observed the same = 36° 17' 0".

By the common process (which you may have, if necessary) I found the watch was 0° 4' 4" 28''' too fast *; therefore,

					h	'	"	'''
From	—	—	—		6	10	37	
Take	—	—	—		0	4	4	28
					<hr/>			
True appart. time of Merc's. exit here,					6	6	32	32
					<hr/>			

Pray impart your observation to

Your Well-wisher,

William Shervington.

island, and who is possessed of a valuable collection of astronomical instruments, made by Mr. Bird in the Strand, London, and that Mr. Shervington only was present.

* Mr. Shervington has taken the mean of these two altitudes from the error of his watch; and there can be no doubt that his observation is a good one, which, compared with that made in Surry-street by Mr. Short, *p.* 199, *l.* 1. *Sc.* fixes the longitude of the place of his observation in Antigua 4^h 5' 30'', or 61° 22' 30'', west of St. Paul's, London.